

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 remain pending in this application. In response to the final Office Action dated May 19, 2006, claim 1 has been amended and a Request for Continued Examination has been submitted. Care has been taken to avoid addition of new matter. Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iwai, of record. The rejection, insofar as it may be considered with respect to independent claim 1 as presently amended, is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as presently amended, requires multiple stage connection networks having a multiple stage arrangement that includes two communication paths. An upstream linking network provides a path for upward transfer of data packets from the lower stage to the upper stage, and a downstream linking network provides a path for downward transfer of data packets from the upper stage to the lower stage. Because the flow of packets can be separated, the scheduling can be previously and easily performed. In addition, according to amended claim 1, the packets can be inhibited from gathering in a particular network of the exchanger for connection between **closed** networks. Generation of any hot spot is thus avoided, hence contributing to the improvement of the multi-processor system apparatus performance.

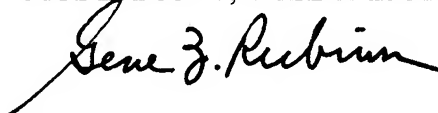
Iwai discloses a multiple processor system including a multistage interconnection networks having a multiple stage arrangement. While Iwai discloses statically performing scheduling of packet transfer among processor elements, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the multiple stage connection networks as now required by claim 1, as described above. That is, Iwai does not disclose the two communication paths now required by claim 1. Iwai, therefore, does not meet the requirements of claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 5, 7 and 9.

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Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gene Z. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

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